

EDITORIAL

The objectives of the Journal and Society have been set forth briefly in the above announcement. The many excellent contributions, the loyal support and the response already received demonstrate that there is a place for this new Journal, and that we have made an auspicious beginning.

It is expected that the Journal for Investigative Dermatology will be able to assemble and make more accessible the important investigative work dealing with the skin. All investigations employing the skin as tissue of study, all experiments and studies in syphilology and venereology and skin studies in all fields of medicine and the allied sciences may be submitted for publication in these pages. And thus a different kind of Journal, one of greatly diversified interest and influences may come into being. Such a Journal would demonstrate the fact that dermatology has emerged from a state of purely morphologic, static and dead description and classification. Such a Journal would further demonstrate that dermatology is a living, integral part of modern medicine, fully aware of the almost unlimited possibilities which the skin, because of the unique accessibility and visibility of its tissues, offers for fundamental studies of basic phenomena and general laws. And such a Journal would become not only indispensable to modern dermatology and dermatologists, but also an invaluable asset to every branch of medicine and medical science. Such a Journal should contain contributions from, and material of interest to, the immunologist and allergist, the biochemist and the cancer specialist, the student of genetics, of pigment, of virus diseases, of bacteriology and mycology, of endocrinology, of metabolism, of excretion, of vascular physiology and pathology, of physical therapy and physics, and many others. This Journal should also prove valuable, as well as interesting, to the serious practitioner and clinician, not only because the laboratory investigation of today is the practice of tomorrow, but also because this

Journal would not be a mere compendium of graphs and equations and not be confined to purely laboratory studies, but would also include clinical investigations and research in the history and literature of dermatology and venereology.

A Journal of this type would undoubtedly bring nearer the materialization of Jonathan Hutchinson's vision when he stated: "If I am not mistaken, the time is not distant when diseases of the skin, instead of being esteemed an unimportant, if not repulsive specialty, will be regarded as affording almost unequalled opportunities for the study of morbid processes and when they will take their proper place as introductory to the study of medicine; and before trying to understand diseases which are to a large extent concealed from observation, the student will attempt first to master those which are exposed to view."¹

THE JOURNAL OF INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY can become a publication of the scope and influence mentioned, only with the complete coöperation of those who believe in the worthiness of the endeavor, and in the permanent value of the Science of Dermatology.

Coöperation may be of various kinds; one may contribute articles on investigations of merit, another may aid by frank criticism and valuable suggestion, and a third may move some friend or acquaintance (dermatologist or non-dermatologist) to submit an article on a phase of research dealing with the skin.

Contributions of scientific studies are valuable and necessary, but only a few are in the fortunate position to support the Journal in this manner. However, there is another form of coöperation possible to all, and each and every one who is in sympathy with the aims of the Society and Journal can assist most materially in their achievement. For all can become and remain Members of the Society and Subscribers to the Journal—all can attend meetings regularly and, under the completely democratic form of constitution, can use the ballot and the floor, and thus have a real voice in the running of both Society and Journal. In this way, all can do their part.

¹ We are indebted to Dr. Paul Bechet for this citation.

The Editors on their part hereby pledge themselves to do the best job they can; to try to select fairly and objectively; and to give the earliest possible publication to a careful selection from the contributions submitted.

We shall surely make mistakes—they may be many and grave at first—but with your help we shall try not to make the same mistake a second time.

While decidedly cognizant of the many difficulties inherent in all beginnings, we are confident that your contributions, your frank criticisms, and your support will insure success to the new endeavor, and bring wider recognition to the Science of Dermatology.